

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (amended) ~~The B-post extension device, as disclosed in Claim 1, said device further comprising:~~ A B-post extension device providing an adjustable support brace for forcing portions of a door opening of a damaged automobile apart for extraction of a victim or for bending other portions of the damaged automobile for other purposes used in conjunction with a power extension ram having a ram base and ram tip, the device comprising:

a heel portion having a handle, said heel portion further having a front surface, a rear surface and two side portions, said side portions having a lower end with a bevel at each lower end forming support legs;

a ~~said~~ toe portion having a front surface and rear surface, said front surface including a support ridge;

at least two slide bar arms positioned in parallel and attached between said heel portion and said toe portion, said two slide bar arms are welded in parallel between said rear surface of said toe portion and said front surface of said heel portion with reenforcement angle braces also attached to said supporting said slide bar arms and said front surface of said heel portion; and

a sliding plate having holes slidably engaged with the slide bar arms, said sliding plate having a bracing bar attached to a front surface of said sliding plate to support said ram base of said extension ram when said ram tip is forcibly applied against said door opening of said damaged automobile, ~~said sliding plate slidably engaged with said slide bar arms~~, said holes of said sliding plate slightly larger than said slide bar arms, said bracing bar traversing a front

surface of said sliding plate, said sliding plate moving freely along said slide bar arms when said sliding plate is perpendicular to said slide bar arms, but locking along said slide bar arms when tilted back, said sliding plate further comprising an upper end, a lower end, a waffled section on said front surface above said bracing bar, said upper end having a plurality of serrated teeth directed away from said front surface.

Claim 3 (Amended) ~~The B-post extension device, as disclosed in Claim 1, said device further comprising:~~ A B-post extension device providing an adjustable support brace for forcing portions of a door opening of a damaged automobile apart for extraction of a victim or for bending other portions of the damaged automobile for other purposes used in conjunction with a power extension ram having a ram base and ram tip, the device comprising:

a heel portion having a handle, said heel portion further having a front surface, a rear surface and two side portions, said side portions having a lower end with a bevel at each lower end forming support legs;

a said toe portion having a front surface and rear surface, said front surface including a support ridge;

at least two slide bar arms positioned in parallel and attached between said heel portion and said toe portion, said two slide bar arms are welded in parallel between said rear surface of said toe portion and said front surface of said heel portion with reinforcement angle braces also attached to said supporting said slide bar arms and said front surface of said heel portion; and

a sliding plate having holes slidably engaged with the slide bar arms, said sliding plate having a bracing bar attached to a front surface of said sliding plate to support said ram base of said extension ram when said ram tip is forcibly applied against said door opening of said

~~damaged automobile, said sliding plate slidably engaged with said slide bar arms,~~ said holes of said sliding plate slightly larger than said slide bar arms, said bracing bar traversing a front surface of said sliding plate, said sliding plate moving freely along said slide bar arms when said sliding plate is perpendicular to said slide bar arms, but locking along said slide bar arms when tilted back, said sliding plate further comprising an upper end, a lower end, a waffled section on said front surface above said bracing bar, said upper end having a plurality of serrated teeth directed away from said front surface, said lower end of said sliding plate including an anchor bolt hole within which may be attached a safety chain to secondarily secure said sliding plate, said safety chain attached to said anchor bolt hole by an anchor bolt, an anchor washer and an anchor nut, with said safety chain being inserted within said first chain slot or said second chain slot, secondarily locking said sliding plate.

Claim 4 (original) A B-post extension device providing an adjustable support brace for forcing portions of a door opening of a damaged automobile apart for extraction of a victim or for bending other portions of the damaged automobile for other purposes used in conjunction with a power extension ram having a ram base and ram tip, the device comprising:

a heel portion having a front surface, a rear surface and two side portions, said side portions having a lower end with a bevel at each lower end forming support legs;

a toe portion having a front surface, a rear surface, a first chain engaging slot and a second chain engaging slot, said front surface including a support ridge;

at least two slide bar arms welded in parallel between said rear surface of said toe portion and said front surface of said heel portion with reenforcement angle braces also attached to said supporting said slide bar arms and said front surface of said heel portion; and

a sliding plate slidably engaged with said slide bar arms, said holes of said sliding plate

slightly larger than said slide bar arms, said bracing bar traversing a front surface of said sliding plate, said sliding plate moving freely along said slide bar arms when said sliding plate is perpendicular to said slide bar arms, but locking along said slide bar arms when tilted back, said sliding plate further comprising an upper end, a lower end, a waffled section on said front surface above said bracing bar, said upper end having a plurality of serrated teeth directed away from said front surface, said lower end of said sliding plate including an anchor bolt hole within which may be attached a safety chain to secondarily secure said sliding plate, said safety chain attached to said anchor bolt hole by an anchor bolt, an anchor washer and an anchor nut, with said safety chain being inserted within said first chain slot or said second chain slot, secondarily locking said sliding plate.

Claim 5 (original) A method of using the device as disclosed in Claim 4, said method, intended for rescue operation by qualified emergency rescue personnel, comprising the steps of:

securely placing of said device within said door opening of said automobile by abutting said bevels of said side portions and said rear surface of said heel portion of said device against a B-post of said door opening and abutting said toe portion against a lower door frame;
applying said ram base to said waffled section of said front surface of said sliding plate;
positioning said sliding plate along said two slide bar arms until said ram tip is against an A-post of said door opening of said automobile at a preferred location;
attaching said safety chain within either said first chain slot or second chain slot, with little slack in said safety chain;
locking said sliding plate along said slide bar arms by said tilt force applied from placement of said ram base above said bracing bar on said front surface of said sliding plate;
activating said extension ram, forcing said ram base and said ram tip apart until at full

extension, retracting said extension ram;
disengaging said safety chain from said first chain slot or second chain slot;
sliding said sliding plate forward towards said toe portion until said collapsed extension ram
has said ram tip against said A-post and said ram base is against said front surface of said
sliding plate above said bracing bar;
re-engaging said safety chain within either said first chain slot or second chain slot;
again forcing said extension ram base away from said extension ram tip; and
repeating said extension and retracting said extension ram and adjusting said sliding plate
along said slide bar arms until said door opening is wide enough to complete rescue.

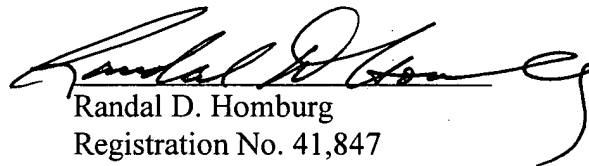
The above amendments to Claims add no new matter to the invention and are made to be place in conformity with the rejections of the Examiner in the Office Action, Claims 2 and 3 essentially rewritten as independent claims since Claim 1 is canceled.. Such amendments should thus place the amended claims in proper form for allowance and overcome the objections of the Examiner based upon the Examiners indications in Paragraph 4 of such Office Action.

CONCLUSION

The applicant submits that the above-noted amendments and remarks put the application in condition for allowance. As noted in Paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4 and 5 were allowed and thus not amended.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding objections in the Office Action of April 30, 2004, and pass this application to issue. Applicants express their appreciation to the Examiner for Examiner's attention and courtesy and especially the remarkable response time for this application.

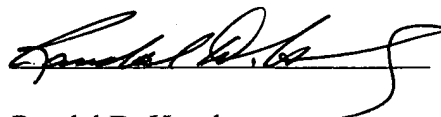
Respectfully submitted;



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Certificate of Mailing

This is to certify that on the 25th day of May, 2004, the attached and foregoing documents with an appropriate fee, if any, were mailed to the MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, postage pre-paid, through the United States mails.



Randal D. Homburg